

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, OHIO
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Astorino at 10:13 p.m., who read the meeting notice. The clerk called the roll and the following Members of Council answered:

SCOTT, BURGIO, SALVATORE, TROYER, POWERS, MENCINI

Also in attendance were Mayor Coyne, Law Director Horvath, Finance Director Cingle.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

DISCUSSION AND THIRD READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 10070 – 2017 TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOK PARK, STATE OF OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Introduced by Mayor Coyne.

Motion by Mr. Salvatore to adopt, supported by Mr. Scott.

Motion by Mr. Troyer to amend, supported by Ms. Powers.

Mr. Troyer stated that current appropriations for the police maintains the status quo and wants to add a series of amendments to allow for three additional police officers starting July 1. It is neutral to the overall budget by reducing \$116,077.22 from the General Fund transferred to the Economic Development Fund 880, 571 and 243. There also need to be an increase to the police Pension Fund 711, 412 and 519. There is enough funding in that account to provide for the \$17,072.48 that is needed. The Salary and Benefits worksheet was also provided to Council. The Civil Service process to hire the new police needs to be started as soon as possible and in light of the restrictions that the Community Center Project has placed on our Fund Balances it is necessary to prioritize activities of the city. A top priority should be to restore a portion of the manpower to our police department. In 2014 we had 41 police officers, now we have 36 and restoring these police officers should have a higher priority than the Economic Development Program. Grants and Senior Services programs for snowplowing and grass cutting can be reviewed at a later date, recent Economic Development Grants have not always been successful. Amend 100, line 412, Personal Services, 5100 - 5199 from \$4,012,610. to \$4,128,687. There are 12 amendments needed to do this and are

Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):
listed in the handouts to Council and the motion could be to add the exhibits.

Mr. Salvatore asked Finance Director Cingle if a copy was provided before the meeting?

Mr. Cingle responded yes.

Mr. Salvatore asked if amendments one through 12 are accurate.

Mr. Cingle replied that number 11 is incorrect.

Mr. Salvatore asked if by removing number 11 would the mass motion be incorrect?

Mr. Cingle said I believe number 11 needs to be added because it looks like it was removed; so instead of being \$1,504,512.61, as proposed it is \$17,073. Also, in number 5 it says on the second page on the Appropriation Ordinance, it is currently \$544,314; the amendment as shown here is \$544,324. That notwithstanding the proposal to reduce the appropriation to about \$428,000 under Capital Outlay, are allocated for the sidewalk program. If these changes are made then the 2017 sidewalk program will be reduced to about \$69,000.

Mr. Astorino commented that the Councilman said that the funds should come from the Grant Program; what is the grant program line item?

Mr. Cingle replied that is in the operations line item and the total amount for the proposed appropriation economic development grants for 2017 is \$100,000; with \$50,000 of that already given to Drabik leaving a balance of \$50,000. The commissioner is talking to several other people that would use between \$12-\$15,000 of the funds.

Mr. Astorino asked if \$50,000 of funds was spent that hasn't been appropriated yet.

Mr. Cingle replied correct, that was approved by City Council by Ordinance that those funds would be appropriated and commented just letting Council know the impact of the proposed changes.

Mr. Salvatore asked the Mayor if a test for police officers has recently been given?

Mayor Coyne responded the city is required to keep a current list and would like to speak to the amendments, when Council is done with their discussion.

Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):

Mr. Scott stated currently there are 36 officers, why is this being brought up this year if there was no problem last year?

Mr. Troyer replied there have been parties with 400 to 500 people attending and with the recent big problem at the IX Center that the City of Cleveland asked the city for reinforcement; also the opiate problem

Mr. Mencini stated agreement with parts of the amendment and has questions to both the Safety Director and Police Chief. Mr. Mencini asked if this was discussed with the Administration during the budget process?

Mr. Troyer replied the city has the monies to do this but, the city's reserves can't be used. we can't use any of our reserves. So the thought was to take from the funds that are not needed right away to fund the police department; then amend or adjust the budget at a later date to pay back what was borrowed.

Mr. Mencini replied this is a very important issue and a noble idea and perhaps some money can be appropriated at a later date, after further discussions with the Safety Director and the Police Chief.

Mr. Salvatore stated everyone would like to see more police officers on the streets and the city may be able to establish specialty units for drugs or car theft for instance or possibly grant monies from the federal government to help the city's safety forces. Mr. Salvatore stated this budget is one of the better ones that has been over the past several years and should be passed in present form.

Ms. Powers stated more police officers are needed now and this is a good proposal and the city has the money. There is more crime and there needs to be more police visibility

Mr. Burgio is in favor of more police officers and likes the idea of specialized training.

Mr. Troyer responded the city is having a lot of problems and the city's police force has been diminished; residents want more police officers.

Mr. Burgio responded we all know that, but are three more enough? Mr. Burgio would like input from the Administration and Police Chief.

Mr. Astorino - Point of Order by reminding Mr. Burgio, Council didn't have an appropriation until March 14th and couldn't talk about appropriating anything before that.

Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):

Mr. Burgio understood but thinks that it could have been discussed informally to be much further ahead.

Mr. Troyer stated more police officers would be needed to make a special unit and Council can work with the Finance Director to get this done by taking monies, for example, from the snowplowing budget because it isn't needed until later in the year, then re-appropriate those monies later in the year when needed.

Mayor Coyne asked if Mr. Troyer prepared the narrative for these numbers?
Mr. Troyer replied no.

Mayor Coyne stated there is a misunderstanding of the financial report regarding the fund balances, the Recreation Center and prioritizing it with the city. The law director knows we have liquidity in the case of a catastrophic event. The Community Center doesn't have any bearing on the budget except for the fact that in the report they want to be able to see the fund balances. Mayor Coyne disagrees that hiring the police should be a higher priority than the Economic Development program because the real way to pay for increased services is to increase revenue. It's been stated that one of the grants the city gave out wasn't successful and that is not true. The company demolished a building and improved the fencing and is assigning that lease to another company that will be coming forward in about the next 30 days. As far as the budget goes the city went through a tumultuous time in 2014 with many employees being laid off, police officers going to 12-hour shifts increasing productivity and Mayor's Court increasing from \$300,000 to in excess of \$1 million from the work the police did. The city is currently operating with the personnel on staff and in real numbers for one full year it will be \$300,000 per year; the city arrived where it is right now by benefits reduction. In the long-term to bring more people on there must be an increase in revenues.

Mr. Astorino asked if are restrictions on the fund balances because last week's meeting it was mentioned to increase funding to crack sealing and a statement was made that it might cause some kind of jeopardy with the bond council.

Mayor Coyne said the report is based on securing fund balances for a bond rating regardless of how it was being used; bond counsel wants to see liquid balances. A decision was made to transfer the liquid money the city has into roads; the other fund balances must remain as they are through the rating process.

Mr. Troyer stated to the residents this is why you don't bring anything to the Mayor because this is what you get.

Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):

Mr. Astorino asked Finance Director Cingle if there were other mistakes in this amendment other than in number 5 and number 11.

Mr. Cingle responded there are minor mistakes and reiterated what they were.

Mr. Astorino asked for confirmation and clarification of points made by Mr. Cingle.

Mr. Cingle concurred.

Mr. Salvatore asked to poll Council to see if they want to pass this budget in its current form or make these amendments.

Mr. Astorino stated that there is already a motion on the floor.

Mr. Troyer clarified that the amendment was to amend 100, line 412, Personal Services, 5100 - 5199 from \$4,012,610. to \$4,128,687.

Mr. Salvatore asked if that is the recommendation of the Finance Director.

Mr. Cingle replied I do not make recommendations to City Council, that is not my job. My job is to tell you how much money Council has to spend not how to spend it. I can just tell you that 2018 cost of the additional police officers would be approximately \$318,000. The city used to have 208 employees and is now down to 140 or so, which freed up a lot of dollars for the city including for the road program. I do not tell or recommend to Council how to spend money.

Mr. Coyne said the annual challenge to the police and fire chiefs' s to determine if they can provide for personnel that can directly reduce the overtime cost. The overtime cost for the police this year is about \$226,000 and for fire it is about \$383,000. The real problem in managing the city is with time off, there is too much time off in this city. This is a solid budget that provides what is needed.

Mr. Troyer stated the reason the city's revenue is up is due to the STOP Program.

Mr. Astorino commented that requested information has not been received relating to the STOP Program.

Mayor Coyne stated that analysis is currently being prepared but that report has no bearing on the budget.

Mr. Astorino doesn't understand how something that generates revenue has nothing to do with the budget.

Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):

Mayor Coyne replied police are assigned accordingly and how the program works shouldn't be generated by revenue.

Mr. Astorino replied in discussions with patrol officers and promoted officers over the years, at that time there were cuts made 2014. Those people told me they would need 39 or 40 officers to be able to do their jobs. Just last year we were at about \$900,000 under appropriations and anticipated revenue to be under and anticipate expenses to be higher; for the \$133,000 and the addition of three officers the city would be a safer community.

Motion by Mr. Troye, supported by Mrs. Powers, to call the question.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Powers

NAYS: Mencini, Scott, Salvatore, Burgio. The motion failed with a vote of 2-4.

Mr. Coyne stated that he never proposed the reduction in the numbers provided in the ordinance, that was done when he was not in office and may have had something to do with the decline in 2008. Monies became available when the number of employees was reduced and the way departments and divisions were operated; this budget works because of a reduction in force. When Council wants to seriously address the long-term capital issues of the city that can be discussed if there is still a healthy economy.

Mr. Astorino replied to Mayor Coyne when you returned to office there were 41 police officers and now the force is at 36.

that when you came here there were 41 members of the police department and now there are 36.

Mayor Coyne confirmed that fact.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Troyer, supported by Mrs. Powers, on the proposed amendments.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Troyer, Powers

NAYS: Mencini, Scott, Salvatore, Burgio. The motion failed with a vote of 2-4.

Mr. Astorino asked Finance Director Cingle if there is a format change on the Appropriations Ordinance?

Discussion and Third Reading of Resolutions and Ordinances: (cont.):

Mr. Cingle responded yes, anything between 5/20 and 5/29 will sum to that column.

Mr. Astorino asked about Safety Account - 711, last year the city spent about \$611,000 and this year \$604,000 was appropriated, were there any cost-savings with dispatch system?

Mr. Cingle responded in the contract there is 13 months of funding to the City of Parma; the remaining expenses are as stated.

Mr. Astorino asked about the Revenue section regarding the Recreation Center. Is there an explanation why membership is increasing and revenue is decreasing?

Mr. Cingle replied that could be a function of the memberships that are being sold. For instance if there is a change between family passes and single passes, more family passes would mean more members, rather than just a single pass.

Mr. Astorino stated to Mayor Coyne that the city's Charter has a requirement that any increases or decreases should be explained to Council. There are several sections in this Appropriation Ordinance that show increases or decreases; several examples were given.

Mayor Coyne responded costs are going down and this budget provides for the needs of the city with the funds that are available.

Motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Burgio, to call for the question.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Salvatore, Burgio, Mencini, Scott.

NAYS: Troyer, Powers. The motion carried with a vote of 4-2.

The clerk called the roll on the motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Scott, to adopt.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Salvatore, Scott, Mencini, Burgio.

NAYS: Troyer, Powers. The motion carried with a vote of 4-2.

There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion by Mr. Salvatore, supported by Mr. Burgio, to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Salvatore, Burgio, Scott, Mencini, Powers, Troyer.

NAYS: None. The motion carried. Council President Astorino declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED *Michelle Blazak*
Michelle Blazak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED *May 16, 2017*

THESE MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY BROOK PARK CITY COUNCIL ARE A SYNOPSIS, NOT TRANSCRIBED IN THEIR ENTIRETY, ALTHOUGH ACCURATE.